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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
10/619,535	07/11/2003	Tavis D. Schriefer	175-0002US	7506

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WONG, CABELLO, LUTSCH, RUTHERFORD & BRUCCULERI,
L.L.P.
20333 SH 249
SUITE 600
HOUSTON, TX 77070

EXAMINER

LEON, EDWIN A

ART UNIT

PAPER NUMBER

2833

DATE MAILED: 08/23/2006

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

Office Action Summary

Application No.

10/619,535

Applicant(s)

SCHRIEFER, TAVIS D.

Examiner

Edwin A. León

Art Unit

2833

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) OR THIRTY (30) DAYS, WHICHEVER IS LONGER, FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 05 July 2006.
- 2a) ☐ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☒ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 6 and 44-75 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 6 and 44-75 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☐ The drawing(s) filed on _____ is/are: a) ☐ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

- 1) ☒ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
- 2) ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
- 3) ☐ Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date _____.
- 4) ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date. _____.
- 5) ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)
- 6) ☐ Other: _____.

DETAILED ACTION

Response to Amendment

1. Applicant's Amendment filed July 5, 2006, in which new Claims 52-75 have been added, has been placed of record in the file.
2. The indicated allowability of claims 46-47 and 49 is withdrawn in view of the newly discovered reference(s) to Herbst et al. (U.S. Patent No. 6,435,904). Rejections based on the newly cited reference(s) follow.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 102

3. The following is a quotation of the appropriate paragraphs of 35 U.S.C. 102 that form the basis for the rejections under this section made in this Office action:

A person shall be entitled to a patent unless –

(e) the invention was described in (1) an application for patent, published under section 122(b), by another filed in the United States before the invention by the applicant for patent or (2) a patent granted on an application for patent by another filed in the United States before the invention by the applicant for patent, except that an international application filed under the treaty defined in section 351(a) shall have the effects for purposes of this subsection of an application filed in the United States only if the international application designated the United States and was published under Article 21(2) of such treaty in the English language.

4. Claims 6 and 44-75 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(e) as being anticipated by Herbst et al. (U.S. Patent No. 6,435,904). With regard to Claim 6, Herbst et al. (Figs. 1 and 3) discloses a connector comprising: a first connector head (first 28) having an axis; a second connector head (second 28); a connection mechanism (26) coupling the first

connector head and the second connector head, wherein the connection mechanism is adapted to limit the motion of the second connector head in a first plane substantially coincident with the axis and in a second plane substantially orthogonal to the axis; and a third connector head (third 28) coupled to the connection mechanism, the connection mechanism adapted to limit motion of the third connector head to the first and second planes, wherein the second and third connector heads are adapted to move independent of each other.

With regard to Claims 44, 53, 61 and 69, Herbst et al. (Figs. 1 and 3) discloses the connection mechanism being further adapted to retain the second connector head in a specified position in the first plane and further adapted to retain the second connector head in another specified position in the second plane.

With regard to Claims 45, 54, 62 and 70, Herbst et al. (Figs. 1 and 3) discloses the connection mechanism further adapted to retain the third connector head in a specified position in the first plane and further adapted to retain the third connector head in another specified position in the second plane.

With regard to Claims 46, 52, 63 and 71, Herbst et al. (Figs. 1 and 3) discloses at least one of the connector heads comprising a device slot (46) selected from the group consisting of Universal Serial Bus, FireWire, BlueTooth, video, RS232 and memory device slots.

With regard to Claims 47, 55, 60 and 72, Herbst et al. (Figs. 1 and 3) discloses at least one of the connector heads comprising an electronic device (28) selected from the

group consisting of Universal Serial Bus, FireWire, BlueTooth, video, RS232 and memory devices.

With regard to Claims 48, 56, 64 and 73, Herbst et al. (Figs. 1 and 3) discloses at least one of the connector heads comprising a cable (52).

With regard to Claims 49, 57, 65 and 68, Herbst et al. (Figs. 1 and 3) discloses the first connector head being fixedly coupled to an electronic device (14) selected from the group consisting of personal digital assistant, telephone, camera and personal computer electronic devices (Column 2, Line 16-18).

With regard to Claims 50, 58, 66 and 74, Herbst et al. (Figs. 1 and 3) discloses the first connector head comprising different connector head styles from at least one of the second and third connector heads.

With regard to Claims 51, 59, 67 and 75, Herbst et al. (Figs. 1 and 3) discloses the connection mechanism is further adapted to comprise means (38) for implementing a hub function between the first connector head and the second and third connector heads.

Response to Arguments


5. Applicant's arguments with respect to claims 6 and 44-75 have been considered but are moot in view of the new ground(s) of rejection.

Conclusion


6. Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Edwin A. León whose telephone number is (571) 272-2008. The examiner can normally be reached on Monday - Friday 10:00-6:30.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Paula A. Bradley can be reached on 571-272-2800, extension 33. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free). If you would like assistance from a USPTO Customer Service Representative or access to the automated information system, call 800-786-9199 (IN USA OR CANADA) or 571-272-1000.


Edwin A. Leon
AU 2833

EAL
August 20, 2006


RUCT T. NGUYEN
PRIMARY EXAMINER